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To: [Chip_Humphrey/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Eric Blischke/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#)
Cc: [ANDERSON Jim M](#)
Subject: Background Groundwater Data
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Chip and Eric,

I polled the DEQ project managers (PMs) for upland background monitoring wells and whether they had data for As, Fe, Ba and Mn. We have a number of sites that have this data although not from monitoring wells that PMs would consider background wells. For a variety of reasons not many of the projects have background wells that PMs felt comfortable identifying as background (i.e., no apparent anthropogenic impacts).

The following is a list of sites that have background wells which may be useful for the in-water evaluation.

Exxon Mobil – Background monitoring wells (probably constructed in colluvium) at the base of the west hills. At least As data available.

Green Way Recycling (ECSI # 4655) – MW-4 can be considered a background location (base of Forest Park) and has at least As and Ba data.

Oregon Steel Mills – MW-22, The PM believes that this well has been monitored for the metals of interest.

RPAC – Although RPAC, apparently does not agree, DEQ views the MW-18 cluster as representing background conditions. AMEC argues that this well location provides data representative of the west hills/Forest Park but not the Portland Basin alluvium. Data is available for at least As and ferrous Fe.

Time Oil – Although not designed as such, monitoring wells are located up gradient of the bulk fuel facility and may be considered background wells. They have not been sampled for the metals of interest.

Other sources of metals data.

City of Portland

The City of Portland Westside and Eastside CSO projects collected groundwater data along the project alignments. Some of this may be useful for the subject question. Without getting into details, the City project data set may be larger than that provided to DEQ.

United States Geological Survey

I have not checked their recent publications or on line data bases, but I have two

older reports on my shelf which may provide some data:

USGS, 1999, Arsenic Ground Water of the Willamette Basin, Oregon, Water-Resources Investigations Report 98-4205

USGS, 1997, Quality of Shallow Ground Water in Alluvial Aquifers of the Willamette Basin, Oregon, 1993 – 95, Water Resources Investigations Report 97-4082-B (has As, Ba and Mn data)

Also, a staff person in Water Quality provided me some disks of data they have accumulated from various sources (i.e., USGS, City of Portland and DEQ) that are from water supply wells, etc. in the Portland Basin. I have not had a chance to look at them yet, but if you want I will make copies of the files and forward them.

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